Towards a dynamical understanding of the non-$D\bar{D}$ decay of $\psi(3770)$

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We investigate the $\psi(3770)$ non-$D\bar{D}$ decays into VP, where V and P denote vector and pseudoscalar mesons, respectively, via OZI-rule-evading intermediate meson rescatterings in an effective Lagrangian theory. By identifying the leading meson loop transitions and constraining the model parameters with the available experimental data for $\psi(3770) \to J/\psi\eta$, $\phi\eta$ and $\rho\pi$, we succeed in making a quantitative prediction for all $\psi(3770) \to VP$ with BR_{VP} from 0.41% to 0.64%. It indicates that the OZI-rule-evading long-range interactions are playing a role in $\psi(3770)$ strong decays, and could be a key towards a full understanding of the mysterious $\psi(3770)$ non-$D\bar{D}$ decay mechanism.

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Charmonium state $\psi(3770)$ has a mass just above the open $D\bar{D}$ threshold, which allows it to decay into charmed mesons, i.e. $D\bar{D}$, without the so-called Okubo-Zweig-Iizuka (OZI) rule [1] suppression. This scenario qualitatively explains that the width of the $\psi(3770)$ is about two orders of magnitude larger than those of the J/ψ and ψ' due to the dominant $D\bar{D}$ decay. An interesting and nontrivial question here is whether the $\psi(3770)$ decay is totally saturated by $D\bar{D}$, or whether there exist significant non-$D\bar{D}$ decay channels. Unfortunately, a definite answer from either experiment or theory is unavailable. CLEO Collaboration measured the exclusive cross sections for $\psi(3770) \to D\bar{D}$ [2, 3] and inclusive cross sections for $\psi(3770) \to$ hadrons [4]. These results lead to $BR_{\psi(3770)\to D\bar{D}} = (103.0 \pm 1.4^{+5.1}_{-6.8})\%$, of which the lower bound suggests the maximum non-$D\bar{D}$ branching ratio is about 6.8%.

The $D\bar{D}$ production cross sections measured by BES [5] are consistent with CLEO [3]. However, the analyses lead to much larger non-$D\bar{D}$ branching ratios of $\sim 15\%$. Such a significant discrepancy makes the experimental status quite puzzling. Also, the search for exclusive non-$D\bar{D}$ decays has been carried out at both CLEO [6] and BES [7]. In Ref. [8], three non-$D\bar{D}$ hadronic decay branching ratios are listed, i.e. $\psi(3770) \to J/\psi\pi\pi$, $J/\psi\eta$ and $\phi\eta$, while tens of other channels have only experimental upper limits due to the poor statistics. In the radiative decay channel, $\psi(3770) \to \gamma\chi_{c0}$ and $\gamma\chi_{c1}$ are listed while an upper limit is given to $\gamma\chi_{c2}$. The sum of those channels, however, is far from clarifying the mysterious situation of the $\psi(3770)$ non-$D\bar{D}$ decays. It hence stimulates intensive experimental and theoretical efforts [9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16] on understanding the nature of $\psi(3770)$ and its strong and radiative transition dynamics.

In this Letter we propose that the dominant $D\bar{D}$ decay is strongly correlated with the non-$D\bar{D}$ ones. We argue that the intermediate $D\bar{D}$ and $D\bar{D}^* + c.c.$ rescatterings, which annihilate the $c\bar{c}$ at relatively large distance by the OZI-rule evading processes, may provide a natural mechanism for quantifying the $\psi(3770)$ non-$D\bar{D}$ decays.

As illustrated in Fig. 1 the $c\bar{c}$ pair first couples to an intermediate meson pair, e.g. $D\bar{D}$, and then these two mesons rescatter into two light mesons via the $c\bar{c}$ annihilation and a light quark pair creation. Qualitatively, with the branching ratio for $\psi(3770) \to D\bar{D}$ at an order of one, the rescattering process could be suppressed by two or three orders of magnitude. Note that the OZI-evading rescatterings are open to numerous final-state light mesons. It might be possible that a sum of those exclusive final states would account for a sizeable fraction of the $\psi(3770)$ branching ratios.

A natural way of describing the rescattering processes is to expand the amplitude in Fig. 1 via the Mandelstam variables $t \equiv (P_{f1} - p_1)^2$ and $s \equiv (P_{f1} + P_{f2})^2 = M^2_{\psi(3770)}$. At leading order, the t-channel is via an additional meson exchange transition, while the s-channel can be recognized as the vector meson

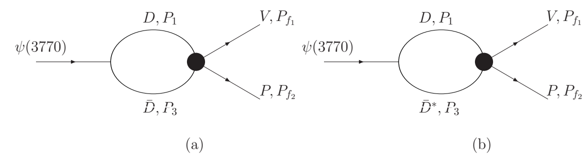

FIG. 1: Schematic diagrams for the charmed meson rescatterings into a non-$D\bar{D}$ decay channel VP via (a) $D\bar{D}$ loop and (b) $D\bar{D}^*$. The conjugation channel $D^*\bar{D}$ is also implied in (b).

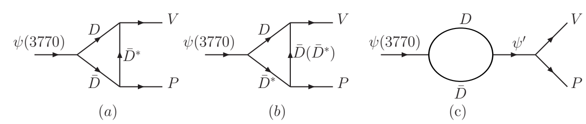

FIG. 2: The t [(a) and (b)] and s-channel (c) meson loops in $\psi(3770) \to VP$.

mixings, e.g. $\psi(2S)$-$\psi(1D)$ mixing [10, 11]. The typical transition diagrams are shown in Fig. 2. The intermediate $D\bar{D}$ rescattering will contribute to the absorptive part of the transition amplitude and is not to be dual to the pQCD leading transition via short-range gluon exchanges. This is an explicit indication that long-range interactions can play an important role in such a transition. The intermediate $D\bar{D}^* + c.c.$ can contribute to the real part of the transition amplitude due to its large coupling to $\psi(3770)$ [17] and the break-down of the local quark-hadron duality [18, 19]. By clarifying the above points, we are ready to construct the theory for probing the role played by the intermediate charmed meson loops in $\psi(3770) \to VP$.

The following effective Lagrangians are needed in the evaluation of the t and s-channel transitions,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}_{\psi D\bar{D}} &= g_{\psi D\bar{D}}\{D\partial_\mu \bar{D} - \partial_\mu D\bar{D}\}\psi^\mu, \\
\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{V}D\bar{D}^*} &= -ig_{\mathcal{V}D\bar{D}^*}\epsilon_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}\partial^\alpha \mathcal{V}^\beta \partial^\mu \bar{D^*}^\nu D + H.c., \\
\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{P}D^*\bar{D}^*} &= -ig_{\mathcal{P}D^*\bar{D}^*}\epsilon_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}\partial^\alpha D^{*\beta}\partial^\mu \bar{D}^{*\nu}\mathcal{P} + H.c., \\
\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{P}\bar{D}D^*} &= g_{D^*\mathcal{P}\bar{D}}\{\bar{D}\partial_\mu \mathcal{P} - \partial_\mu \bar{D}\mathcal{P}\}D^{*\mu} + H.c.,
\end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where $\epsilon_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}$ is the Levi-Civita tensor; $\mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{V}^\beta$ are the pseudoscalar and vector meson fields, respectively.

The charmed meson couplings to light meson are obtained in the chiral and heavy quark limits [17],

$$\begin{aligned}
g_{D^*D\pi} = \frac{2}{f_\pi} g\sqrt{m_D m_{D^*}}, &\quad g_{D^*D^*\pi} = \frac{g_{D^*D\pi}}{\tilde{M}_D}, \\
g_{D^*D\rho} = \sqrt{2}\lambda g_\rho, &\quad g_{DD\rho} = g_{D^*D\rho}\tilde{M}_D,
\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where $f_\pi = 132$ MeV is the pion decay constant, and $\tilde{M}_D \equiv \sqrt{m_D m_{D^*}}$ sets a mass scale. The parameters g_ρ respects the relation $g_\rho = m_\rho/f_\pi$ [20]. We take $\lambda = 0.56\,\text{GeV}^{-1}$ and $g = 0.59$ [21, 22].

The coupling $g_{\psi(3770)D\bar{D}}$ is extracted by,

$$\Gamma_{\psi(3770)\to D\bar{D}} = \frac{g^2_{\psi(3770)D\bar{D}}|\vec{p}|^3}{6\pi M^2_{\psi(3770)}}, \tag{3}$$

where $|\vec{p}|$ is the D-meson momentum. The branching ratios for $\psi(3770) \to D^+D^-$ and $D^0\bar{D}^0$ are slightly different. They give $g_{\psi(3770)D^+D^-} = 12.71$ and $g_{\psi(3770)D^0\bar{D}^0} = 12.43$, and reflects the isospin violation due to the mass difference between the u and d quark. Taking into account the consequent kinematic difference, we also have access to isospin violating channels via the meson loops.

For other couplings, we take the SU(3) flavor symmetry as a leading order approximation which leads to $g_{D^{0*}\bar{D}^0\ u\bar{u}} = g_{D^{+*}D^-\ d\bar{d}} = g_{D_s^{+*}D_s^-\ s\bar{s}}$ and $g_{D^{0*}\bar{D}^{0*}\ u\bar{u}} = g_{D^{+*}D^{-*}\ d\bar{d}} = g_{D_s^{+*}D_s^{-*}\ s\bar{s}}$. So we have $g_{D^*D\pi} =$

$\sqrt{2}g_{D^*Dq\bar{q}(0^-)}$, $g_{D^*D\rho} = \sqrt{2}g_{D^*Dq\bar{q}(1^-)}$, $g_{D^*Ds\bar{s}} = 0$, and $g_{D_s{}^*D_s n\bar{n}} = 0$, with n for u or d quark. Similar relations are also implied for $g_{D^*D^*\pi}$, and $g_{DD\rho}$.

We adopt coupling constants $g_{J/\psi DD^*} = 3.84$ GeV^{-1} and $g_{J/\psi DD} = 7.44$ from Ref. [23]. Coupling $g_{\psi(3770)D\bar{D}^*}$ can be related to $g_{\psi(3770)D\bar{D}}$ via $g_{\psi(3770)D\bar{D}^*} = g_{\psi(3770)D\bar{D}}/\tilde{M}_D$.

The η-η' mixing is considered in a standard way,

$$\begin{aligned} \eta &= \cos\alpha_P|n\bar{n}\rangle - \sin\alpha_P|s\bar{s}\rangle, \\ \eta' &= \sin\alpha_P|n\bar{n}\rangle + \cos\alpha_P|s\bar{s}\rangle, \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where $|n\bar{n}\rangle \equiv |u\bar{u} + d\bar{d}\rangle/\sqrt{2}$, and the mixing angle $\alpha_P = \theta_P + \arctan(\sqrt{2})$ with $\theta_P \simeq -24.6^\circ$ or $\sim -11.5^\circ$ for linear or quadratic mass relations, respectively [8]. We adopt $\theta_P = -19.1^\circ$ [21].

By investigating $\psi(3770) \to J/\psi\eta$, $\phi\eta$ and $\rho\pi$ simultaneously, we expect to obtain constraints on the theory by which we can then make predictions for other VP channels. Although these decays are OZI-rule-suppressed processes, their kinematics are slightly different. The production of J/ψ in $\psi(3770) \to J/\psi\eta$ suggests that it is a very soft process. The momentum carried by the final state meson in the $\psi(3770)$-rest frame is $p = 0.359$ GeV which is much less than the masses of both η and J/ψ. Thus, we argue that $\psi(3770) \to J/\psi\eta$ is dominated by the intermediate meson loops. Note that the t-channel loops suffer from divergence [24]. We then introduce a cut-off in the loop integrals via a standard dipole form factor,

$$\mathcal{F}(q^2) = \left(\frac{\Lambda^2 - m_{ex}^2}{\Lambda^2 - q^2}\right)^2 , \tag{5}$$

where $\Lambda \equiv m_{ex} + \alpha\Lambda_{QCD}$, with $\Lambda_{QCD} = 0.22$ GeV; m_{ex} is the mass of the exchanged meson and α is a parameter to be determined by experimental data for $\psi(3770) \to J/\psi\eta$.

The s-channel meson loop contributions can be determined via the on-shell approximation. We find that the branching ratio given by the ψ'-$\psi(3770)$ mixing in $\psi(3770) \to J/\psi\eta$ is $BR = 1.3 \times 10^{-5}$ which is much smaller than the t-channel, and indicates the dominance of the t-channel. With $BR^{exp}_{J/\psi\eta} = (9.0 \pm 4) \times 10^{-4}$ [8] $\alpha = 1.73$ can be determined and the exclusive t-channel contributes 8.44×10^{-4}.

As follows, we fix $\alpha = 1.73$ in the form factors as an overall parameter. Two aspects must be taken care of here. Firstly, since relatively large momentum transfers are involved in $\psi(3770)$ decays into light VP, the pQCD leading contribution via SOZI transitions may play a role. This part contributes to the real part of the transition amplitude and will not be dual with the long-range intermediate meson loops as recognized by the absorptive feature of the $D\bar{D}$ rescattering in the on-shell approximation. Secondly, for those light VP decay channels, their SOZI amplitudes can be related to each other by the flavor-blind assumption [26, 27] for quark-gluon coupling,

$$\begin{aligned} & g_S^{\rho^0\pi^0} : g_S^{K^{*+}K^-} : g_S^{\omega\eta} : g_S^{\omega\eta'} : g_S^{\phi\eta} : g_S^{\phi\eta'} \\ = &\ 1 : 1 : \cos\alpha_P : \sin\alpha_P : (-\sin\alpha_P) : \cos\alpha_P \ , \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

with the other isospin channels implied.

The transition amplitude for $\psi(3770) \to VP$ can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_{fi} &= \mathcal{M}^L + e^{i\delta}\mathcal{M}^{SOZI} \equiv i(g_L + e^{i\delta}g_S\mathcal{F}_S(\vec{p}_V)) \\ & \times\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}P_\psi^\alpha\epsilon_\psi^\beta P_V^\mu\epsilon_V^{*\nu}/M_{\psi(3770)} \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where the property of antisymmetric tensor is applied to factorize out the effective couplings in the second line and δ is the phase angle between the meson loop and SOZI amplitudes. A conventional form factor, $\mathcal{F}_S^2(\vec{P}_V) \equiv \exp(-\vec{P}_V^2/8\beta^2)$ with $\beta = 0.5$GeV, is applied for the SOZI transition with $\vec{P}_V$ the final three momentum in the $\psi(3770)$ rest frame [25, 26]

With $\alpha = 1.73$ fixed, we can then determine the other two parameters $g_S \equiv g_S^{\rho^0\pi^0} = 0.085$ and $\delta = -66^\circ$ by experimental data, i.e. $BR_{\phi\eta} = (3.1 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-4}$ [8] and $BR_{\rho\pi} < 0.24\%$ with C.L. of 90% [28]. In Tab. I theoretical predictions for other VP decay branching ratios as a maximum rate are

presented. The exclusive results for t and s-channel meson loops and SOZI processes are also listed. We also include isospin-violating channels $J/\psi\pi^0$, $\omega\pi^0$, $\rho^0\eta$, and $\rho^0\eta'$, which can be recognized via the non-exact cancelations between the charged and neutral meson loop amplitudes due to the mass differences between the charged and neutral intermediate mesons. We do not consider $\phi\pi^0$ channel since it involves both OZI doubly disconnected process and isospin violation, thus will be strongly suppressed.

TABLE I: Branching ratios for $\psi(3770) \to VP$ calculated for different mechanisms. The values for $J/\psi\eta$ and $\phi\eta$ are fixed at the central values of the experimental data [8], and the experimental upper limit is taken for $\rho\pi$ [28].

BR($\times 10^{-4}$)	t-channel	s-channel	SOZI	Total
$J/\psi\eta$	8.44	0.13	–	9.0
$J/\psi\pi^0$	0.1	2.58×10^{-2}	–	4.4×10^{-2}
$\rho\pi$	34.45	7.69×10^{-5}	8.53	24.0
$K^{*+}K^- + c.c$	10.97	6.83×10^{-6}	5.72	8.91
$K^{*0}\bar{K}^0 + c.c$	11.80	4.38×10^{-5}	5.72	9.90
$\phi\eta$	1.25	1.13×10^{-5}	1.16	3.1
$\phi\eta'$	0.87	2.53×10^{-5}	1.86	3.78
$\omega\eta$	6.83	9.64×10^{-6}	1.88	4.69
$\omega\eta'$	0.58	2.87×10^{-5}	0.97	0.39
$\rho\eta$	1.88×10^{-2}	1.77×10^{-5}	–	1.8×10^{-2}
$\rho\eta'$	1.08×10^{-2}	1.54×10^{-5}	–	1.0×10^{-2}
$\omega\pi^0$	2.57×10^{-2}	1.82×10^{-5}	–	2.5×10^{-2}
Sum	75.34	0.16	25.84	63.87

The following points can be learned from Tab. I: (i) Different from the $\psi(2S)$-$\psi(1D)$ mixing scheme discussed in Refs. [10, 11], our s-channel $\psi(3770) \to \psi'$ transition element is a complex number. If we neglect the imaginary part due to the widths, we can extract the mixing angle $\phi \simeq 4.57^\circ$ in the convention of [11]. We find that the t-channel transitions are much more important in $\psi(3770) \to VP$, while the s-channel contributions are generally small and even negligible in light VP channels. This is mainly due to the small partial widths for ψ' decays into light VP. The only non-negligible s-channel is in $\psi(3770) \to J/\psi\eta$, which adds to the t-channel constructively. In contrast, the isospin violating channel $J/\psi\pi^0$ experiences a destructive interference between the t and s-channel. These results are useful for clarifying the scenario of $\psi(2S)$-$\psi(1D)$ mixing. (ii) The SOZI coupling g_S and phase angle δ are strongly correlated. Applying the BES data [28], we find that the meson loop and SOZI amplitudes have constructive interferences in $\phi\eta$ and $\phi\eta'$, but have destructive interferences in $\rho\pi$, $K^*\bar{K} + c.c.$, and $\omega\eta(\eta')$, which are automatically given by the SU(3) flavor symmetry. This is a strong constraint for our model parameters, and a sum over the VP decays gives a rate of $\sim 0.64\%$. By varying δ, but keeping the $\phi\eta$ rate unchanged (i.e. g_S will be changed), we obtain a lower bound for the sum of branching ratios, $\sim 0.41\%$.

It is interesting to see that the intermediate D meson rescatterings indeed account for some deficit for the non-$D\bar{D}$ decay. In order to clarify this puzzling problem, it is essential to have precise data for $\rho\pi$ and $K^*\bar{K} + c.c.$ A search for these decays at BES-III [29] is thus strongly recommended. Theoretical investigation of other channels such as $\psi(3770) \to VS$, VT, etc is also needed as a prediction and test of the proposed mechanism.

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Notes added: We would also like to mention that upon the submission of this paper, a work based on

a similar idea was submitted to the arXiv by Liu *et al* [30]. There, the authors focus on the intermediate $D\bar{D}$ rescattering in an on-shell approximation and investigate its contributions to $J/\psi\eta$, $\rho\pi$ and $J/\psi\pi\pi$. In our case, we calculate all VP channels with full loop integrals and a reasonable estimate of the SOZI processes based on a stringent constraint on the model parameters.

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